(c) whether Government propose to make alternative supply of drinking water for the villages affected by fluoride contained water; and

(d) if so, the details of proposals and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government about 5838 habitations in 27 districts of the State have fluoride contamination in drinking water affecting the inhabitants. However, details of people affected due to consumption of fluoride-contaminated drinking water have not been reported.

(c) and (d) Rural water supply is a State subject. State Governments implement schemes/proejcts on rural drinking water supply from their own resources. The Government of India supplements their efforts to overcome the water crisis by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). With effect from 01.04.1998, powers have been delegated to State Governments to plan, approve and implement projects under ARWSP. Upto 15% of ARWSP funds are to be earmarked by the State Governments for sanction of projects under Sub-Mission Programme for providing safe drinking water free from brackishness, fluorides, excess iron etc. State Governments have been repeatedly requested to sanction more and more such projects to provide safe drinking water to the rural inhabitants.

Setting up of apparel parks

1640. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state when and where Government propose to set up apparel parks for boosting textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): The Project Approval Committee, constituted under the guidelines of the "Apparel Parks for Exports" scheme, has accorded in-principle approval to the nine project proposals for setting up Apparel parks at Tronica City and Kanpur (U.P.), Surat (Gujarat), Tiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalore (Karnataka) and Tirupur and Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu).